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Robin Hood, Future shows make Spring Sing history

by GABRIELLE PRUITT
student writer

Saturday, April 23, was a historic night in Spring Sing performances.

The John H. Ryan Sweepstakes Award was presented to two shows this year due to a tie by Zeta Rho, TNT and friends' show "Redistribution of Wealth: The Early Years" and Pi Theta Phi, Gamma Sigma Phi, Iota Chi and friends' show "20/80 Vision."

According to the Director of Spring Sing production, Dr. Steven Frye, it has always been possible to tie, but this is the first year it has ever happened. Therefore, both shows will receive a \$2,000 check for their charities, "a very unique and special win-win" situation, as Frye put it.

Producer of Theater (which includes Spring Sing) Cindee Stockstill said that she was thrilled about the tie. Being able to contribute significantly to two different charities and make twice as many people happy is "always a good thing," she said.

PTP Spring Sing director of 20/80 Vision Katie Keese

said she believes a tie means the ultimate goal of Spring Sing was accomplished in providing a fantastic show and being able to give more money to charities than originally expected.

"I think [the tie] is a good reminder for us to stop and think about what Spring Sing is really about," Keese said. "Yes, winning is great and rewarding, but ultimately, everything we do needs to be for God and others, and winning is merely a small pat on the back in the great scheme of things."

"The emotions I had been bottling up for the past two weeks exploded when Dr. [David] Burks announced that it was a tie," said Scotti Beth Lawson, one of the ZP Spring Sing directors of Redistribution of Wealth: The Early Years. "I was completely and incandescently happy."

Other awards included: Redistribution of Wealth: The Early Years won the category for Music; 20/80 Vision and Redistribution of Wealth: The Early Years tied as winners for Visuals category; and the winner for both Staging category and Entertainment category was 20/80 Vision. The Spirit Award went to Once Upon a Sitcom.



photo by JON YODER | The Bison

Directors and members from "Redistribution of Wealth: The Early Years" and "20/80 Vision" gleefully hold their trophy and John H. Ryan Sweepstakes Award. This year's tie was the first official tie in Spring Sing history, according to Spring Sing Director Steven Frye. Each group was awarded \$2,000 for the charities they represented: Easter Seal (Redistribution) and Habitat for Humanity (20/80).

HU forms new academic structure

by LAUREN BUCHER
features editor

Harding is undergoing an administrative paradigm shift, streamlining its organization.

"I think this is the biggest change since Harding became a university in 1979," Larry Long, vice president for Academic Affairs, said. "And that happened in '79, because we looked around and said, 'We are no longer the small college. ... Our programs have developed in diverse ways in scope and size.' So we needed an organization to reflect where we were; that's exactly where we are today."

The administration decided to add a new college, the College of Allied Health, under a new organizational entity, the Center for Health Sciences. The college will organize existing programs and provide a way for new health-focused programs to be added.

Harding has grown since '79 in both the number and diversity of programs and types of programs, Long said. This structural change is a response to that growth.

"This structure matches what Harding looks like today," Long said. "It apparently will allow us to shape the future through the structure, and it would allow us to enhance our opportunities to do that very thing, rather

than restrict that kind of growth. We have come up to speed to where we are, and we think [the structure] will engage us for some time in the future, not just to maintain but to expand what we have been doing."

The Carr College of Nursing, the College of Pharmacy and the College of Allied Health will fall under the organizational umbrella of the Center for Health Sciences. The College of Allied Health will encompass the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program, the Physical Therapy Program and the Physician Assistant Program.

"They didn't really have a place where their voices as Health Sciences could have its full range and a focus," Long said.

Now, there will be three separate tiers of organization: the undergradu-

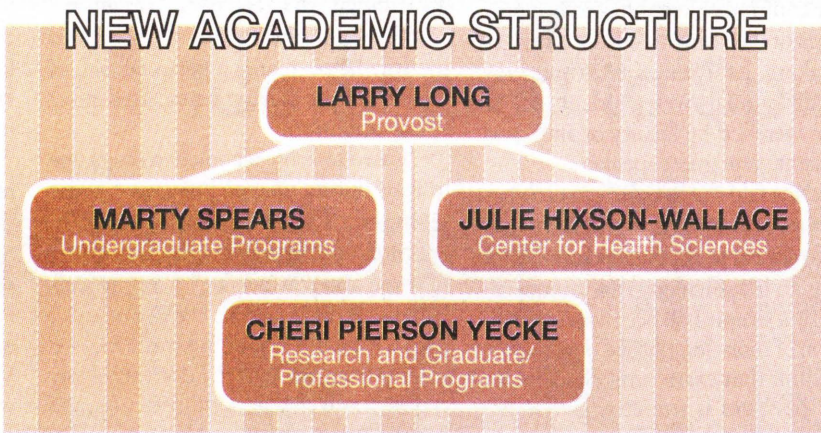
ate programs, the Center for Health Sciences and graduate and professional programs.

With increasing focus on the health field, Long said there has been some concern about whether this growth will be at the expense of the undergraduate liberal arts foundation.

"This structure will put a renewed emphasis on liberal arts," Long said. "I am excited to demonstrate again that [liberal arts] is an emphasis. This allows liberal arts to have a voice too. We struggled to get the best for the most out of every single move we made."

Before the reorganization, communication disorders fell under the College of Communication. The Physician Assistant Program fell under sciences. Pharmacy was its own separate college.

-SEE PROVOST PG. 2A



Belles & Beaux turns heads



photo by ASHEL PARSONS | Petit Jean

Belles and Beaux singer and guitar player senior Brandon Ragsdale and drummer junior Kyle Rowe perform during chapel on Monday. During the show, Ragsdale jumped offstage and interacted with the audience. The show's intensity sparked campuswide controversy.

Students, administration discuss chapel attitudes

by MONIQUE JACQUES
student writer

Any given weekday at 9:06 a.m. in the Benson, a number of sleepy students shuffle to their seats as others pull out books or phones, or begin casual conversations with surrounding attendees.

When the song leader or speaker begins, phones come out and the chapeltweeting ensues.

Although only a portion of the school even has Twitter, and a smaller number actually contributes to #chapeltweet, it has asserted a definite presence. #Chapeltweet was mentioned twice in student opinion articles in the Bison this year, and a few times in chapel itself.

"When I get on Twitter and read the #chapeltweets, it reminds me of persecution," senior Nathan Schandavel said in his April 14 chapel devotional.

Is the criticism found on #chapeltweet a manifestation of

overarching cynicism that plagues the majority of the student body, or is it a few voices bitterly crying out while the rest sit contented in their seats?

"It's human nature to dwell on the bad things, so I think we often hear this negative side of chapel, but the thing is, they're still talking about it," Student Association President-elect Bruce McMullen said. "I think if you asked every student, one-on-one, for the most part they would say they really don't mind chapel."

Will Reno, of the prominent Twitter voice "letskillrobots," said he views #chapeltweet as a misunderstood outlet of angst.

"Being outspoken and thinking, 'I have a voice and a right to say whatever I want,' is part of our mindset as a college-aged student," Reno said of #chapeltweet contributors. "They think, 'I'll express discontent to show other people how it really is,' and justify themselves with twisted logic for making rude

Something is dying within the student body in chapel, and that needs to be examined. Where are people's hearts, and what have they been taught? ... Has Jesus Christ become that boring?

-Jane Messina
spiritual life director (Student Association)

comments and thinking they're being productive in some bizarre way."

He said while he sees potential in chapel, it has not been reached.

Reno also said he believes people frequently misinterpret #chapeltweets that are made in friend-to-friend sarcasm by "jumping to a definitive conclusion about tweets that look rude but aren't intended to hurt someone because they're friends and have that kind of relationship."

Jane Messina, spiritual life director for the SA, said she believes the negativity of #chapeltweet is symptomatic of a deeper problem than boredom or virtual protest.

"Something is dying within the

student body in chapel, and that needs to be examined," Messina said. "Where are people's hearts, and what have they been taught? Why aren't people stirred by God? Why aren't people stirred by Jesus? Why aren't people moved by the gospel? Has Jesus Christ become that boring?"

If this is the case, with whom does the fault lie? Chapel is not something that is simply thrown together at the beginning of a week, according to administrators.

A chapel committee comprising select professors from across campus, the SA spiritual life directors and the SA president that meets throughout the year to plan and

discuss what connects most and least with students, which, Dr. Bruce McLarty, vice president for spiritual life, said are often the same things.

"The fact that chapel is a gathering of 4,000 free-thinking adults, five times a week, makes it difficult to appeal to everyone," McLarty said.

But how much of the student body is not appealed to in chapel?

In a recent poll conducted by The Link, 47.3 percent of voters described chapel as "not that bad," while 31.3 percent said they "hated" it. While this is not a scientific survey of the entire student body, it is representative of student opinion. For the full poll, see page 4A.

-SEE CHAPEL PG. 2A

Graduates first of their degree

by SARAH KYLE
editor in chief

On May 14, seniors Calea Bakke, Gil Gildner and Mark Slagle will become the first of a new breed: Interdisciplinary Studies graduates.

The trio will be the first to complete the new Honors College degree program, which was officially added into Harding's academic catalog this year.

Interdisciplinary Studies is the first official major of the Honors College, and it allows students to customize their course load by drawing from a minimum of two different academic disciplines to create an individualized major, according to Jeffrey Hopper, dean of the Honors College.

"I don't know of another program exactly like it," Hopper said.

Participants must submit their academic plan to the Honors College, vice president of Academic Affairs and the deans of each program they plan to participate in and maintain a 3.5 GPA to earn a degree.

"It doesn't apply to any certain number of honors hours, because we want a student to be able to do this without being in the Honors College," Hopper said. "But they have to maintain our standards."

By the time the major officially became part of the academic catalog, Hopper said that Bakke, Slagle and Gildner were essentially pursuing an Interdisciplinary Studies major through electives. The trio immediately entered the new program and began to draft their individual majors: global communications (Bakke), visual media design (Gildner) and global narrative (Slagle).

"All three of them share a media area, but they wanted something expansive and big and broad," Hopper said. "They wanted to make a difference in the world."

Bakke, who said she was the first to draft her degree plan, said she and Administrative Assistant Debbie Baird worked together diligently to create her degree, global communications, and the necessary forms for future Interdisciplinary Studies majors.

Bakke said she chose Interdisciplinary Studies because it was the perfect map to get her into the world and start telling the stories of people

from a variety of cultures.

"Though Harding offers a wide range of majors, a lot of people have these dream jobs or things they want to pursue in their lives and there's not a major in place that can help them get there," Bakke said. "What's great about Interdisciplinary Studies is that you can take different aspects of different departments and utilize them into a major that can work and get you to where you're going."

After graduation, Bakke said she is beginning the journey to her dream job with a two-year commitment with One Hope, an international nonprofit missions organization in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

"I will be doing everything from social networking to public relations," Bakke said. "They are very internationally based, so hopefully I will be traveling a lot."

Gildner said he created his visual media design degree after entering Harding as a graphic design major. While he always had a passion for visual art, he said he wanted to be able to use his artistic talents to communicate stories.

"Studying art and design didn't allow me to do what I really want," Gildner said. "Adding communication to the mix gives me the ability to tell stories through visuals. It's very practical."

Gildner is still pursuing a job, but he said that his dream job would include traveling the world with a camera.

Slagle said the possibilities for his global narrative major were "endless," and that it has already given him multiple opportunities, like filming documentaries for Harding's programs in Italy and Greece, with plans for Zambia this summer.

"Designing my own major has allowed me to break down any walls that other, traditional majors would have built saying what I can or cannot do post-graduation," Slagle said. "A camera in my hands is simply a tool to tell a story."

Including the graduating seniors, the program currently has five students, with an additional five now drafting their academic program.

"In general, this program seems to attract people who know who they are but don't find a degree plan that meets up with who they are," Hopper said. "Only strong students have expressed interest in it."

PROVOST: Colleges, departments reorganized

CONTINUED FROM
PG. 1A

Previously, communication disorders, mass communication and theater programs formed the College of Communication. With communication disorders being moved to the Center of Health Sciences, administrators decided to revert theater and mass communication to departments under the College of Liberal Arts and Humanities and dissolve the College of Communication.

"Our move to the College of Arts and Humanities will not affect our students, other than the fact that a new dean will be leading us into the future," Dr. Jim Miller, associate professor of journalism, said. "The communication department is excited about what the future holds. Our academic and co-curricular programs have a strong tradition of excellence, and we know that opportunities for continued growth and expansion will be fostered within COLAH."

The current dean of the College of Communication, Dr. Rebecca Weaver, will become the dean of the College of Allied Health.

"This is a completely new college that has to be built from the ground up," Weaver said. "What a wonderful opportunity."

Additionally, Long will serve as provost, the senior academic administrator. To help him with his duties, a provost council will be created. Dr. Marty Spears, Dr. Cheri Pearson Yecke and Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace will form the council alongside Long.

Spears will serve as associate provost for the undergraduate programs, Yecke will serve as assistant provost for graduate and professional programs, and Hixson-Wallace will serve as the assistant provost for the Center for Health Sciences.

The deans for each department and college will report to their respective assistant or associate provost, who will report to Long. Previously, the deans of all colleges reported directly to Long.

No new buildings are currently underway to contain the additions, according to Long. The change is organizational rather than geographic.

The initial planning started about 18 months ago, and the changes will go into effect July 1.

Second wave of severe weather batters South



photo courtesy of MEG HILL

The damage in Vilonia caused by Monday's F2 tornado was not limited to property but also claimed four lives in the small Arkansan town, with the day's severe weather causing a total of seven fatalities in the state. Several Harding students joined Vilonia residents in cleanup efforts the next day. By Thursday, at least 230 fatalities from the storm system were reported across the South.

Students steep in tea's global origins

by TIFFANY P.
JONES
web editor

As many students start their post-graduation journey May 14, a group of Honors College students will embark on a three-week international tour to see the world through a curious point of view — the tea cup.

The idea for the tour came to professor Pat Garner after he read the book "A History of the World in Six Glasses" by Tom Standage.

"He [Garner] suggested last year that we formulate tours that trace the history of tea and coffee to study how they've been integrated into

culture and how they've affected commerce, religion and so on," said Dr. Jeff Hopper, dean of international programs.

The program started last summer when a group of students went on a whirlwind coffee tour that took them to four countries spanning three continents.

Coffee tour veteran Darren Kentner is one of four returning students going on the tea tour.

"I loved the diversity," Kentner said. "We stayed in tents at the top of the Simien Mountains one night, and then a week later we stayed in one of the nicest hotels that Istanbul, Turkey, had to offer."

The tea tour starts in Boston, Mass., continues through

India and Morocco and finishes in London, England, but this experience will be different than the coffee tour.

"Coffee is only four or five hundred years old. Tea is almost 3,000 years old. It leads us to a much deeper study," Hopper said. "Tea has become symptomatic of a lot of social, religious, spiritual, and economic and political ideas, but it makes a great window to view those topics."

The tour was supposed to stop in Japan, a nation with some of the oldest and most recognized tea ceremonies, but had to re-route to Morocco because of the current nuclear situation.

Hopper said he believes that Morocco will add a different

spice to the program.

"I would never knowingly put a student in harm's way, so we're not going to go to Japan," Hopper said. "What Morocco brings is an African culture. It brings in an Arab culture that we wouldn't have. It brings in the origins of iced tea and tea with mint."

The tour will offer four classes: a high-altitude hiking kinesiology class, post-colonial literature, the standard international program humanities course and one more pivotal class: communication.

"Communication — that's important because people communicate with words and books, but they also communicate over a cup of tea," Hopper said.

CHAPEL: Chapel examined by students, administration

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1A

Given that almost 30 percent of students expressed negative feedback about chapel, McMullen said he believes that students would be better engaged if they heard more from peers.

"The only way you're going to get connection between the student body and what's going on onstage is by putting the student body onstage, giving them reason to want to go to chapel," McMullen said.

The committee keeps records on percentages of face time to ensure a variety in speakers. Last semester 40 percent of the devotionals were student led, 45 percent were led by faculty or staff, and 15 percent were guest speakers.

Messina said she recognizes a problem and believes that although efforts are made to appeal to all, there is something causing an insufficiency that cannot be solved by a simple balance in speakers or insertion of more student-led devotionals.

"I think that examining chapel on a broad spectrum is something that the chapel committee and student body needs to do," Messina said. "I believe that their hearts are in the right place, but we've got to be real with ourselves;

people are dissatisfied, and we obviously haven't accomplished what we wanted to."

President David Burks said cynicism about chapel usually arises toward the end of each spring with the demands of the semester. However, he said students get out of chapel what they put into it.

"Frankly, if I were there day after day and I didn't sing or listen, or I studied, played games or sent messages on my phone, I wouldn't get anything out of chapel either, and therefore it would be something I am forced to do," Burks said.

SA President Steven Ramsey said the way he overcame a personal lack of interest was by making a concerted effort to pay attention.

"I used to bring a book or a magazine to read during chapel, but now I come saying, ... 'I'm not going to text, I'm definitely not going to read, I'm going to listen and stay awake,'" Ramsey said. "That's all there is to it. We've got to let it go a little. It's not doing me any good to keep firing shots at it. I don't think my cynicism will change administration, and it won't make chapel any better."

Perhaps, if there is an overarching disconnect, it is the result of a lack of clear communication. #ChapelTweet

is a voice of dissatisfaction, and Nate Copeland, assistant to the university president, furthers Ramsey's assertion that it is a faulty avenue to summon change. Instead, Copeland said he encourages students to interact directly with those who plan chapel.

"There are definitely some mornings when I know we struck out. ... You won't see those programs again," Copeland said. "I've always had, and the president's always had, an open-door policy, and we'd love for students to come and tell us what their feelings are about chapel. If they like it, great; if they don't, great, come tell me so that we can make adjustments in the future."

Burks said that whether students realize the importance of chapel or have the end-of-the-year chapel blues, it is a part of Harding that is going to stay. He said it allows student groups to showcase talents, informs students about upcoming events and provides shared experiences. Whether it is well accepted or not, chapel will be a common ground that the alumni of tomorrow can share in conversation.

"Chapel is about more than just starting our day right," Burks said. "It is what makes Harding a community."

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At the Bison, it is our goal to serve the Harding University student body with integrity, truth and open ears. However, we believe that meeting that goal is a two-way street between our staff and the public it serves.

We pledge to keep our eyes and ears open to what our community has to say and hope that, in return, that community will be an interactive audience, sharing its stories with us. We also pledge to do the basics: report accurate and relevant information, check our facts, and share them in a professional, integrable manner.

If you have any story ideas, questions, comments or concerns for the Bison staff, please e-mail Sarah Kyle, the editor in chief, at skyle@harding.edu.

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theWatercooler

"If you can't talk about human rights without talking about human beings, then I don't think the dialogues should go on."

JOHN KAMM,
executive director of Dui Hua foundation, a nonprofit that supports political prisoners, on the usefulness of human rights talks between the U.S. and China

"The town's gone."

SHELDON BROCK,
resident of Vilonia, Ark., after the rural community was hit by a deadly tornado Monday night

"I can lean back and relax. It really is comforting that one doesn't have to worry about Great Britain."

KARIN VOGEL,
who by the account of some genealogists is the last person in line to the British throne; if 4,972 people before her died, she would become queen

The Old Man and The Sweet Valley

Once a month, the English department hosts a luncheon in which those in attendance discuss what they've read recently. It's lovely because that is what we do anyway, stopping in stairwells and lurking in low-lit alcoves to converse about Sarah Waters and Salman Rushdie and to mention which classic we've finally gotten around to reading and wondering why we had not read it sooner.

This month, I am at a loss for what book to bring to the luncheon.

The obvious choice would be something by Ernest Hemingway. I have just finished my senior symposium on one of his short stories, which necessitated I read three of his books and a couple hundred pages of biography and critical analyses. I was practically dating him, except it was never Facebook-official.

My need to immerse myself in the literature of Hemingway caused me to fall into his world like Alice toppling heels-over-head into a bizarre alter reality. In Hemingway's world, all are doomed. His characters would never be so extravagant as Miss America as to desire world peace but instead have learned to economize with small pockets of personal tranquility. Picture a ragtag group of people huddling in the eye of a hurricane.

As it happened, the weather in Arkansas has been extremely melancholy lately. Sure, it was winter for a while, but to me the



adria giles

Guest Space

weather seems to have been rather a poor sport the past few weeks when it should have been spring. I can excuse cold weather before spring break, but bad weather following spring break suggests moodiness and maladjustment on the part of Arkansas.

The coupling of bad weather with Hemingway's depressing mindset bearing down on me caused me to feel out of sorts and unpleasant. I needed sunshine and a relief from weighty thoughts, but I had no time for Disney movies or diverting literature.

The other night I had a spontaneous midnight chat with my roommates and it led us to reminiscing about the "Sweet Valley Twins" series, which we had read and loved when we were kids. The series follows Jessica and Elizabeth, identical twins with opposite interests. The world of "Sweet Valley" is rife with drama about boys, clothes, friends and the school newspaper.

Visits to two Goodwill stores yielded me eight non-sequential "Sweet Valley" books. I was delighted and my roommates were thrilled. I'm not calling the

books chapel-length, but each can be read in under an hour, making them perfect for an odd opening in my day.

In my favorite of the books so far, a girl named Ginny Lu moves from rustic Tennessee to suave Sweet Valley, Calif. With her red pigtails, Smokies accent and gingham dresses, she doesn't fit in until she saves the life of her archenemy's horse. In another book, Jessica and Elizabeth accidentally swap boyfriends and are unhappy until they pretend to be each other and get their proper boyfriends back. An average day in "Sweet Valley."

Because the "Sweet Valley" books are entirely without art, I couldn't possibly mention them in the English luncheon. It would be tacky, like bringing up "Twilight." Hemingway, on the other hand, is always welcome among students of literature, but I have grown tired of him.

I'm sad to see the end of my relationship with Hemingway, or "Hem" as I like to call him, but it's for the best. He was smothering me. The weather is warming up and I'm moving through sunnier, sweeter valleys now. I only hope I will at last be able to read that classic for which I've always been too busy.

ADRIA GILES is a guest contributor for the Bison. She may be contacted at agiles@harding.edu

Too Scared to Speak

I have never written an opinion article. At first, I thought, "Maybe I don't have an opinion. Maybe I just live a bland life of neutrality." I've never really felt compelled to express my feelings in black print across the opinions pages before. But now I realize the problem goes deeper than that. I am scared of my own opinion.

I've managed to dodge the opinion bullet for three years now, but now I'm forced to examine my aversion as I write a research paper about the absence of a large group of Americans from opinion pages across the nation. For the past 25 years, the presence of female contributors in the opinion pages has remained steady at about 20 percent in top U.S. papers, according to the Op-Ed Project.

The core of my research is "why?" Why does half the American population only contribute less than a quarter of the nation's opinion articles? For years, many attributed this disparity to some sexist male editor-in-chief tossing the majority of female-written opinion articles in the trash; but a recent attack by a reader on The Washington Post for its lack of female-written opinion articles brought out the truth. The reality was that there was not a gender gap because of a bigoted editor; the problem was with the women themselves.

I read the same excuses online over and over as I attempted to understand the lack of female



kylie akins

Staff Space

I've never really felt compelled to express my feelings in black print across the opinions pages before. But now I realize the problem goes deeper than that. I am scared of my own opinion.

contributors: "I'm not an expert in anything; I don't want to seem pretentious; why would anyone want my opinion on this?" And now I find the same phrases coming out of my own mouth. As proof, my first attempt at an opinion article crumpled in the trash that would have printed today if I hadn't snatched it from the copy editors' desk hours before deadline night.

Now the doubt of my opinion's validity is staring me in the face.

How could I research the gender gap in the opinion pages if I was just part of the problem?

I've never attended a bra-burning rally, but I suddenly feel a calling to address the problem of insecurity among women, a problem I've struggled with my entire life. Writing this article has been one of the hardest things I've ever done during my work with the Bison, and I will still probably attempt to wrestle it from Jessica Ardrey's hands before she places it in the opinion pages.

This year I've read the opinions pages more than I ever have during my time at Harding, and the number of female contributors has encouraged me to address my insecurity now.

So here I am, facing one of my worst fears as I open my opinion up to public criticism. At the end of my Bison employment and my undergraduate career, I am suddenly afraid of my own words. But I hope they can encourage others. I'm blessed by the voices I find on the opinion pages each issue, and I hope no one continues to feel the insecurity about his or her own voice like I do now.

Your opinion is valid.

KYLIE AKINS serves as the news editor for the 2010-2011 Bison. She may be contacted at kakins@harding.edu

sarah kyle



Staff Space

The Last Column

I have thought about this column for the entire school year. What would I have to say after a year of following your lives and trying to share your stories with this campus? Would I be sad? Glad? Just plain tired? I think it's a combination of those things. But most of all, I want to leave you with something real.

From fires to earthquakes to I'm-Not-In-Kansas-Anymore winds, the elements have provided their fair share of news articles in the past few months. I have watched families and Harding students struggle with the pain caused by tragedy, death and destruction. I have also experienced the joy and craziness of some of Harding's more traditional moments during club week, Homecoming and Spring Sing. I've seen how crazy chapel can get when Brandon Ragsdale decides to literally "Jump, Shake Your Booty" with Belles and Beaux. I've been thrust into difficult decisions as our university struggled to affirm her beliefs and make decisions accordingly.

But what's the takeaway? Are you ready for it? It's pretty profound. Take the time to listen.

Everybody has a story to tell. Not to get cheesy or go Colorado-granola-hippie on you, but if you learn to truly listen to people, no matter their beliefs or experiences, you will be able to show them God without getting in your own way.

I have been extremely blessed to spend the last four years of my life learning to listen. When I walk across that stage on May 14, Dr. Rebecca Weaver (who will forever be B-Weave to us) will say that my degree is a Bachelor of Arts in print journalism. I think a more fitting degree title would be "Professional Listener and Storyteller, with a minor in giving a voice to the voiceless." But I guess that's a little too long to fit on a diploma.

People often ask me why I chose a less-than-lucrative profession with less-than-ideal hours. I distinctly remember wrapping up an interview this summer and having a source ask me to turn off the recorder, look me straight in the eyes and say, "Journalism is not a legitimate profession."

If your definition of a "legitimate profession" is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, you're right. But to me, a legitimate profession is using the talents you have to make a difference, no matter how big or small, in this world.

Do I have the responsibilities of a CEO or a doctor? No. My responsibility comes with a superhero-like call to "use one's powers for good, not evil." Have you ever thought about how much of a difference words can make? Words can destroy, build up or enact change. The printed word can keep a corrupt politician accountable, inspire a community to help those in need and provide one last tribute to a life lost.

While newsprint fades and crinkles, the Internet and social media have made it possible for the written word to be recorded and archived until our Lord returns.

In a nutshell, I have spent the last four years learning to listen and tell people's stories because I want to use the power of words to tell the stories that need to be remembered. If words are going to last as long as this world does, I want them to be meaningful.

Every day, I want to take the opportunity to walk into someone else's life and make a difference. While the basics of reporting are the same, each day will hold different triumphs and struggles. Each day will draw from the skills I learned during my four years working with you. As my adviser, Jim Miller, likes to say, it's time for me to fly.

SARAH KYLE serves as the editor-in-chief for the 2010-2011 Bison. She may be contacted at skyle@harding.edu

jess ardrey



Stuff
Harding
Kids Like

Harding

I think it's safe to say that there's truth in the old adage, "Those who don't learn from the past are doomed to repeat it."

Case in point. "Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2."

That being said, I've observed and/or been a part of various failed experiences and/or friendships since I've been here. To be fair, some of the relationships you make freshman year will be your closest friends throughout your college career.

But then again, we've all got those people we were friends with freshman year with whom we now avoid eye contact on the sidewalk, despite the fact that we know he totally just broke up with Jennifer because we still Facebook stalk him on the regular. Let's be honest, your freshman posse was a ragtag wolfpack of rugby players and mathletes.

But the point is you learned from that. You've learned a lot of things since then, like, if it's chicken nugget day in the caf, there's no dilly-dallying to be had after class. Seriously, the wisdom you've acquired is enough to fill tiny volumes that you'll never use in real life, but will enjoy telling your kids, who will promptly roll their eyes and respond with "01101100 01101111 01101100." (That's binary code for "lol." No, seriously. Look it up.)

Now, I've spent the past school year analyzing and generally poking fun at the whole of the student body. Call it an independent study.

According to my findings, the average Harding kid is a Chik-fil-A-loving, Chaco-wearing, thrifty YouTube connoisseur who reads Rowling, Tolkien and Claxton and can be found at any time pranking his Spring Sing directors in a Texas-bound Winnebago.

But I'm not a scientist, or anything, so you don't have to take my word for it.

Think about it. You'd like that kid. He's fun and chill and kind of dorky and his name is probably Zach.

Zach is what you love about Harding. Zach goes to your functions. Zach sits with you at Midnight Oil. Zach plays in the rain with you. Zach has the funniest chapel tweets.

Zach is the one who got you through biology, and Zach is the one whom you're going to miss the most when you graduate.

Now, if you were awake for my speech in chapel, then you probably know exactly where this is going.

Speaking of which, "skyrocketing" is the only term that most applies to the number of exchanges since last week that have played out thus:

"Hi, my name is Kenny."

"Hey, I'm Jess."

"Oh, I know."

Granted, it is a little weird, but not nearly as unsettling as the people I've never seen before who address me by my full name. Flattering? Sure. Alfred Hitchcocky? You bet your last scrap of DCB, it is.

But let's bring back the Harding train. This is what I've come to learn: Your time at Harding is as good as you want it to be. Despite the occasional crummy day, the quality of your experience is directly related to your attitude.

And that's the secret, everybody. That's it.

Well, bros and bettys, we've made it. Last fall I stumbled through a clumsy column about an irresistible and tasty poultry treat. Eighteen issues later and I'm stumbling through a clumsy column about the entirety of a college experience.

I think you guys know that "what Harding means to me" can't really be boiled down into a snippet in a bi-weekly college newspaper. And yet, it's odd to think how much those snippets have shaped my last year here.

Whether you know it or not, I've been revealing myself a little more throughout these columns. Oh, yes. I like sidewalk chalk. I like social clubs. I like a whole lot of super dorky things.

I am a Harding kid. And I like it.

JESS ARDREY serves as the opinions editor for the 2010-2011 Bison. She may be contacted at jardrey@harding.edu

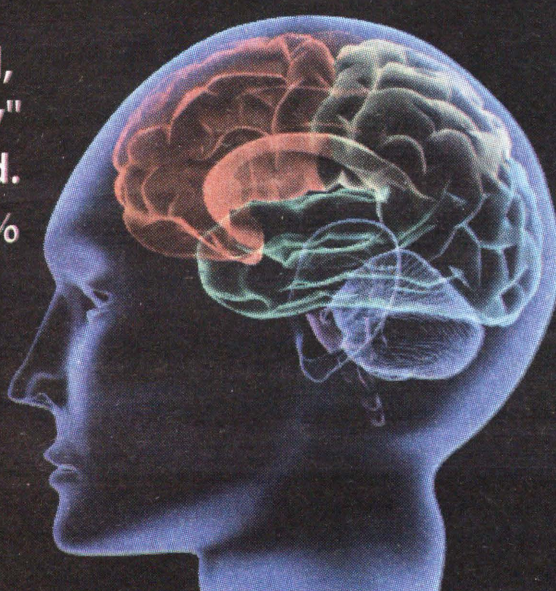
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF CHAPEL THIS YEAR?

Chapel wasn't that bad, even though "Christianly" isn't a word.
47.3%

Are you kidding me? I hated it. Check #chapeltweet.
31.3%

How would I know? I slept through it the whole time.
12.5%

I thought it was great.
8.9%



Voters: 112
Stats taken from the Link,
April 26, 2011

"I really appreciated what they tried to do with 'Thinking Christianly.' They didn't always do it in the right way, but I still respect it."

[sophomore] **brett cravens**

Step Away From the Velour

tiffany p. jones



Staff
Space

Turn on the siren. Flash those blue and red lights. Pull that girl over — she needs a fashion citation. Look at her, guilty as sin in her bedazzled skinny jeans and velour Juicy track hoodie. Wait, are those Uggs in the middle of spring? Take her away.

Am I joking? I never joke about Juicy Couture. Trust. The fashion on this campus is in a sorry state. Harding University, welcome to your intervention.

1. What happens in the gym, stays in the gym. Really, if I see one more sweaty guy in a muscle tee, ripped to shreds, reaching over me in the salad bar, I'll barf. Gym clothes serve a function in the gym. They are designed to move and sweat in. They aren't flattering. Am I saying wear pearls and makeup to the gym? Absolutely not, but when you wear gym clothes as regular day clothes you do yourself and everyone else an injustice.

2. You are what you wear. Do you really want to be a ratty old T-shirt? Don't try to fight me on this one. We are constantly told that it's what is on the inside that counts. That is true, but when I see you coming at me for the first time, I don't see your "insides," I see what you put in front of me.

We all have a story to tell. Let your clothes tell me more about you. Plus, when you trade the T-shirt for a more appropriate top you become someone else. It is impossible to hide that good-look glow.

3. Ignore the numbers; wear what fits. This is probably the hardest lesson to hear. The attachments we have to our clothing sizes are silly. Sometimes you have to go up a size in that brand of jeans. It's OK. We all have to. Walking around in that super-tight top and those pants that give you an impressive muffin top just isn't cute. Same goes for hiding your body away in loose clothing. You don't look modest. You don't look smaller. You look like a shapeless blob that is out of touch. Give your body a break and dress it in clothes that fit. Go number-blind for a while and figure out what works for you. It's time to start

Pull that girl over — she needs a fashion citation. Look at her, guilty as sin in her bedazzled skinny jeans and velour Juicy track hoodie. Wait, are those Uggs in the middle of spring? Take her away. Am I joking? I never joke about Juicy Couture. Trust.

"Thinking Christianly" about fashion.

4. It's not about fashion. It's about style. Why did I pull that girl over in the beginning of my article? She went to fashion jail because she lost the fight. The brands she was wearing took her over. She wasn't wearing her clothes. Her clothes were wearing her. I can be a slave to designer

labels. I may or may not have a Kate Spade purse that I have named and protect with my life. I sometimes follow Betsey Johnson down a dark path of tassels, gingham and graffiti. But I have to put my fashion demons behind me and wear what Tiffany looks good in. It is painful. Many a pencil skirt makes it in my basket only to get kicked out at the cashier because I know deep down in my soul that I have no business in a pencil skirt. And really, most people don't.

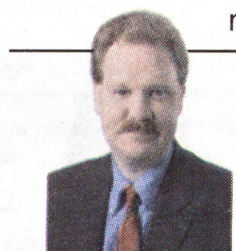
So, what am I saying? Am I a fashion snob picking this campus apart faux pas by faux pas? No. I have been guilty of all of these rules. This hectic last semester of my college career, I've grown closer to my workout pants than I should admit. My Uggs sing spring siren songs in my ear. But when I find myself in those dark corners of sweatshirt-dom, I remember that good-look glow. We are what we wear.

As Tyra said, "Shine bright. Shine far. Don't be shy. Be a star."

TIFFANY P. JONES is the web editor for the Bison. She may be contacted at tjones4@harding.edu

Now Playing On Pipeline

michael claxton



Just the
Clax

Back when students filled these out in class, I've known teachers who baked brownies for their students that day. Shameless. They might as well have typed up 3X5 index cards with "suggested flattering remarks." Or passed out Jason Mraz tickets.

teachers will ask for feedback on how the semester has gone in their classes. It's only fair — we have been grading your every move for the past 15 weeks:

Carly tripped on her way into class, B for poise.

Tiffany's asleep again, C plus for snoring. Has anyone seen Sarah Jane? Binge tweeting, A minus.

So you should have your shot at grading us. It only takes a few minutes online, and we really do read your comments and consider what you have to say about our classes. I realize that, to some, the course evaluation process may seem like a desperate plea for affirmation by mousy

people who need a running commentary on themselves (Facebook, anyone?). But you do pay an awfully high tuition not to give official input about it all.

Granted, there are stories of teachers trying to tip the evaluation scales in their favor. Back when students filled these out in class, I've known teachers who baked brownies for their students that day. Shameless. They might as well have typed up 3X5 index cards with "suggested flattering remarks." Or passed out Jason Mraz tickets.

Over the years I've had the full range of student comments on evaluations. Many have said kind things about my classes, and I used to dutifully read those to my mother. Sometimes people complain about things that will not ever change: There's too much writing in Comp 2, there's too much reading in World Lit, there's too much starch in these mashed potatoes, etc. It's occasionally sad when someone will claim that my course helped immensely with his or her writing, only to misspell the word "immensely." But many students have made incredibly helpful suggestions about how I might improve the content of a particular course, or my approach to it. My teaching style today is the result of years of such feedback.

STUDENT A: It is? How bad was he before?

STUDENT B: Don't ask. Just pass me a brownie.

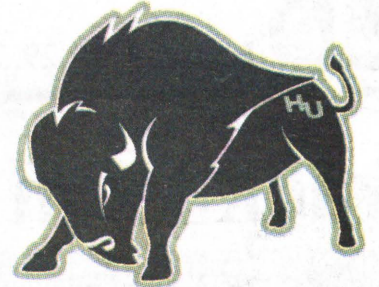
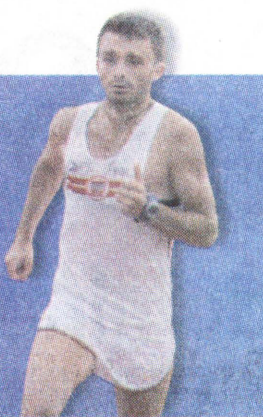
Online course evaluations open today on Pipeline, so as we wrap up another school year, please take a moment to let us know how we're doing. If you are honest, specific and tactful, I promise we'll listen. Have a great summer.

MICHAEL CLAXTON is a guest contributor for the Bison. He may be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu

THE BISON

A Harding University Student Publication

From Olsztynek to Searcy: the journey of Polish long-distance runner, Wojciech Kopec. SEE PG. 2B



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j.m. adkison



While Warming the Bench

Figuring out sports land

If you have been a faithful reader of "While Warming the Bench," you probably have figured something out: I'm not exactly the best sports writer in the world.

I took the sports editor position to leap out of my comfort zone that sat between the mystery and sci-fi/fantasy aisles of the bookstore. I was a Syfy channel addict who could not even tell you what channel ESPN was on. I could give you background information on both major and minor "Star Wars" characters, but when it came to scoring a tennis game, I was at a total loss. As the title of this column mentions, I was a bench warmer in high school, and I spent most of that bench warming daydreaming.

Fortunately, as a kid who spent most of his time moving through different schools, unfamiliar territory is my forte, so I took a nosedive into "sportsland."

While I learned the fine arts of game coverage, athlete feature writing and coach/player interviewing, the art of sports column writing somewhat eluded me. If you read most other sports columns, they are all about predictions for who will win the championship, which rookie will be the next great American icon, and why this player should be or should not be taken out of a certain hall of fame after admitted steroid use. Mine, however, consist of quick sports-analogy devotionals, pondering on what sport would Jesus play and lessons from my experiences in tae kwon do.

I was a sci-fi fan expected to write a sports column, a duty I was glad to have and excited to take up, but there was one problem: I had no idea how to write about a field I had such limited knowledge of, especially when it came to making predictions, reviews, praises or critiques.

So I followed that ancient law of writing: Write what you know.

I know how to write creatively, and I know how to write about God. And since God is in everything, why not try to find God in sports? Unless I go work for a Christian publication, Harding is the only place where I will be able to put God into a sports column, so why not do it now? And there is plenty of creativity to be found in the world of sports; just start asking some of Harding's athletes about their backgrounds, and you will hear some pretty amazing stories.

So I hope you have enjoyed my little column in the sports section, and I apologize for not being more informative on actual sports. I can only hope that you've found something entertaining and refreshing, something out of the norm for sportsland.

J.M. ADKISON serves as the sports editor for the 2010-2011 Bison. He may be contacted at jadkiso1@harding.edu

Third time's the charm against Delta State

After losing two of three games, Bisons win third

by KATIE SWANN
student writer

The Harding baseball team has set its best record of all time at 36-10 overall, securing it a spot in the Gulf South Conference Tournament, and 13-5 in conference with their victory over Delta State on April 23, 2011.

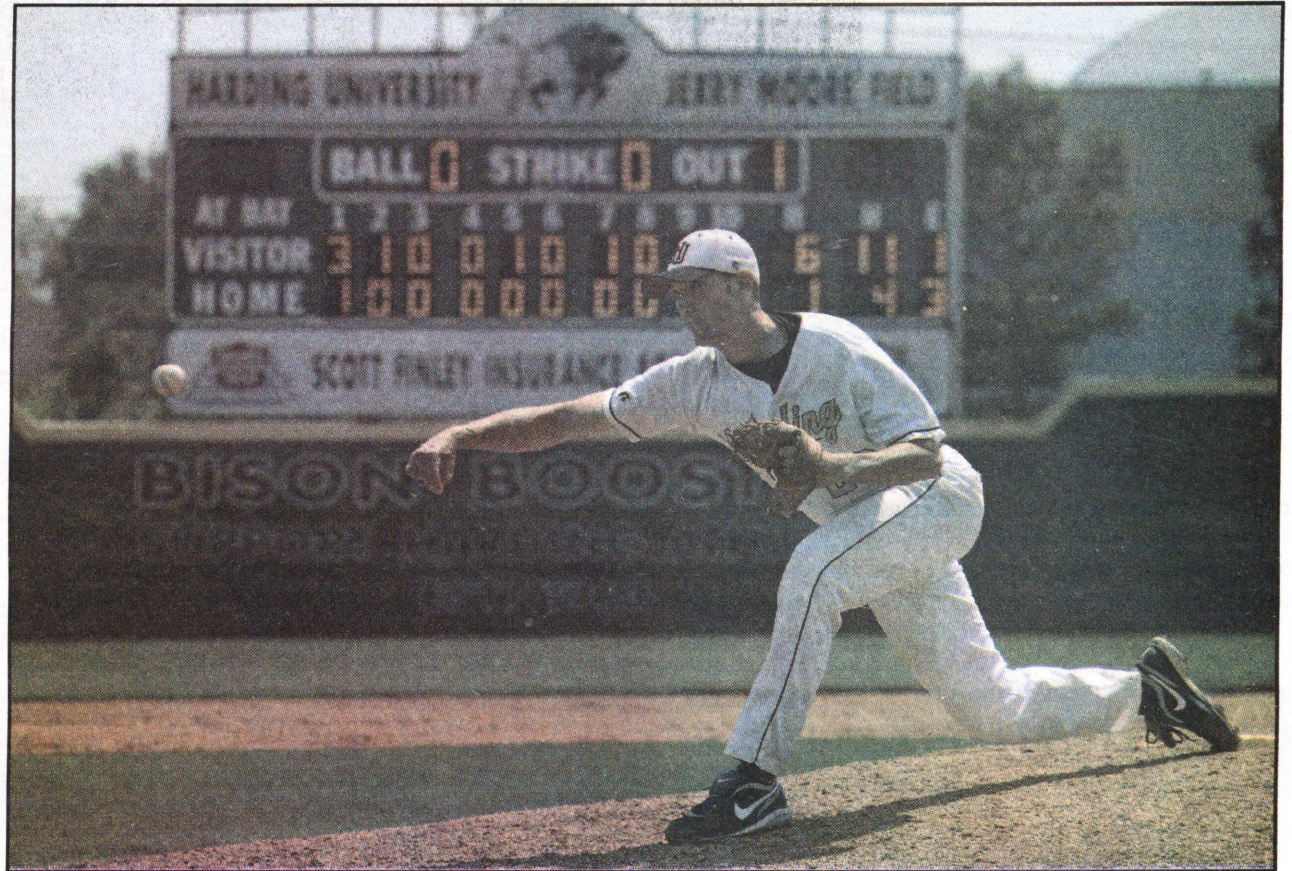
As of the April 22-23 games, Harding is ranked 19th in the NCAA Division II and are in a three-way tie for first in the Gulf South Conference West Division along with Delta State and Arkansas Tech University. Harding is bound for the GSC Tournament on May 6 in Millington, Tenn.

Though they lost the first two games in the series against Delta State last weekend, the Bisons refused to give up their progress. They came back in the third game in the bottom of the ninth with Delta State leading 10-9. With bases loaded and Delta State prepared to run a double play, freshman Matt Calhoun, starting for the first time in almost six weeks in place of injured sophomore Billy Ninemire, managed to hit a curve ball between the outfielders in right field, bringing home senior Jason Nappi and sophomore Erin McCarver with the game-winning run.

"I just tried to stay with the curve ball," Calhoun said. "It was a very exciting moment to be in."

Head coach Patrick McGaha said he is thrilled for his team and is now looking forward to the championship.

"Hopefully we'll go out there and play well and give ourselves a chance to win the



photos by CALEB RUMMEL | The Bison
TOP: In the Bisons game against Delta State last Friday afternoon, April 22, at Jerry Moore Field, senior Daniel Niehls fires off a pitch. The game was part of a three-game series for the Gulf South Conference.

RIGHT: Senior infielder Charles Bradley leaps over a Delta State player sliding into a base as he moves quickly to pick up the ball. The Bisons lost to Delta State 6-1 and 2-1 in their two games on Friday, but won in their third game on Saturday 11-10.



championship," McGaha said.

Both coaches and players attribute much of their success to outstanding team effort. Sophomore starting pitcher Lucas Waddell said he noticed the hard work his team has put into the season.

"The whole team is working hard, harder than any

team I've played on before; everyone is being completely unselfish," Waddell said. "I am very happy with how the team is doing and how many guys have stepped up."

This season has seen some broken records as well. Senior Donny Stephens set the record for most combined

shutouts at three, sophomore Ryan Modglin set the record for lowest opponent batting average at .160, and, over the weekend, junior Chase Presley broke the single-season record for most doubles at 21, previously held by teammate sophomore Anthony Guglielmi at 19.

The Harding Bisons will host their last home game of the season against Ouachita Baptist Tuesday, April 26, at 3 p.m. Their final series against Arkansas Tech in Russellville this weekend is the last game before the GSC Tournament.

GAC being updated for new training facility

by HEIDI TABOR
student writer

The Ganus Athletic Center is currently under construction as part of a twofold project including building additions to benefit both Harding's athletic training program and football program.

But in order to expand, the athletic program is going to need funding.

The Athletic Training Education Program at Harding is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education. To obtain accreditation, certain guidelines and criteria are must be met. However, at the last site visit, it was

determined that the program was growing and would need a larger facility to meet the needs of the program.

"Dr. [David] Burks began to plan at that time to have a facility ready before the next site visit, which will be following the 2012 academic year," Athletic Training Education Director Randy Lambeth said.

Additionally, the need for improvements in football facilities became evident among coaches and members of the athletic department. Locker rooms and weight training facilities are dated and unable to hold the number of athletes currently involved with the program, Lambeth said.

"The current facilities were designed for a team of

about 75 players, and were constructed as far back as the 1960s regarding the weight room," Head Football Coach Ronnie Huckleba said.

According to Lambeth, additions to the athletic training program facilities will include an athletic training clinic, a classroom for ATEP, offices for staff members, an evaluation area, a rehabilitation area, a room for plunge pools and whirlpools, and a storage area. Football additions include a new lockerroom and equipment areas, a weight room and a meeting room that will be used for recruits, team meetings and as a classroom for the department of kinesiology.

"Like all construction, this is a sliding calendar," Lambeth

said. "Factors such as weather, materials and other distractions will affect the completion date. However, the target date is the first of August so we will be able to use the facility for athletic teams as they return from the summer and begin preparation for the fall competition."

Both programs said they feel it will be positive for both trainers and athletes.

"More room and up-to-date facilities will allow us to train and prepare our athletes more efficiently," Huckleba said.

Additionally, the athletic training clinic will help students prepare to pass their certification exam, and will enable them to get hands-on experience that will ready them

for clinics or athletic teams they will work with outside of Harding. A certified athletic trainer will be on duty at all times, and students will work under their direction.

Lambeth credits Burks with much of the hard work involved in this kind of building project.

"Dr. Burks has a great vision for Harding and has worked hard to provide the facilities needed to make the education programs as well as student services the best they can be," Lambeth said. "This facility will be a great addition to Harding's campus and will be used to help young people be prepared for their roles as Christian professionals."

Tennis teams serve up another great season

by WHITNEY DIXON
student writer

The tennis season may be over, but with a season record of 16-4 for the Bisons and 19-7 for the Lady Bisons, and both having several honors in the Gulf South Conference, the two teams have plenty of reasons to celebrate a strong season.

"This semester we played intense, harder," junior Ling Chan said. "We worked harder, and there were lots of matches that we were losing in a set but we would come back up to win a whole game."

Freshman Alex Ford, junior Henrique Ruiz, senior Ivan Michelli and sophomore Helio Hashimoto all

earned placement on the All-Gulf South Conference Men's Tennis Team on Friday. Freshman Benyapa Phumtip and sophomore Chelsea Hunt were also named to All-Gulf South Conference Women's Tennis Team. Ford and Phumtip were both named GSC West Division Freshman of the Year.

Both teams were also in the running to make it to nationals this year. Head Tennis Coach David Elliott said that the NCAA has recently changed the requirements to make it to nationals, narrowing the bracket from 64 to 48 teams.

Next year several Arkansas colleges will be leaving the Gulf South Conference to join the new Great American Conference. Elliott says this change bodes well for the future

of Harding Tennis.

"[Harding tennis is] going to still be very strong," Elliott said. "Within the conference itself we will not have the elite teams or as many elite teams as we have been competing against, but we will still have some very strong teams. I think the women will be in a little bit better situation as far as trying to win a conference championship; the men ... probably a little better situation as well."

Elliott said he also expects a solid recruitment for next year's teams. The men's team is losing one senior and the women's team is losing three seniors. The teams will consist of several returning players, and Elliott said he expects at least one incoming player for

each team.

"I see incredible depth in our team for the future," sophomore Corey Stumne said.

Elliott said he foresees the tennis teams continuing to display the sportsmanship and talent that has become a Harding tennis staple.

"We always intend to be very competitive and be the best we can possibly be, and I think our record shows that we've always had winning teams, and we expect to continue that," Elliott said. "You know, you have no control over your competition, and the level of your competition. But you can control yourself and your team, and accomplish as much as you can. I feel like the future is bright for us, continues to be bright."

Track team dominates regionals, looks to nationals

by CARLY KESTER
copy editor

The Harding University men's and women's track teams are making their way toward a national title. With sweeps at University of Mississippi, Mt. SAC Relays and the NCAA South Region Championship at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, a national victory is within reach.

The track team will be sending an all-star lineup to nationals in Stanislaus, Calif., from April 27 to April 29. For the men's team, senior Daniel Kirwa, who has already won 10 All-American awards, is automatically qualified for nationals, while the 4x4 relay team provisionally qualified, along with senior Wojciech Kopec. Sophomore Portia Bell provisionally qualified for the women's track team.

Senior 4x4 sprinter Blake Arnold said he wants to show competing teams that Harding's team is strong in every respect.

"Our goal right now is to compete, to show them that Harding has sprinters," Arnold said. "It's mostly been the cross-country, distance-dominated field, and so we want to show them that we can go out there and compete and that we want to make finals, and we want to make All-American."

Ryan Anderson, junior 800 and 1,500-meter runner, said winning regionals, especially beating the University of Alabama in Huntsville for the first time, was like a boost in morale to the teams.

"I think winning a meet like regionals,



photo by RACHEL ROBERTS

Long-distance runner sophomore Gladys Kimtai leads the race at the NCAA South Region Championship in Huntsville, Ala., on Saturday, April 23. Kimtai won the 1,500-meter with a time of 4:50.76.

especially when you beat a team that you've never beaten before, it really gets you motivated, it really gets you excited about what you're doing," Anderson said. "It's the point in the season where we've been training three or four months and you're starting to get tired, starting to get worn down, your body's hurting, and

so going in and winning a meet like regionals is just crucial for kind of getting you excited again and getting you ready to stay focused, stay motivated, train hard to get to nationals and run the best you can."

The men's team entered regionals ranking fifth place and won with a total of 218 points.

The women's team entered at eighth place and won with 220 points, making this its first victory in the South Region meet.

Individual achievements at regionals for the men's team include Kirwa's victories in the 800, 1,500 and 5,000 meters; senior Eddie Russ won long jump; junior Philip Biwott won the 3,000 meters; Kopec won the 10,000 meters; and the 4x4 relay team won with a time of 3:12.63.

Achievements for the women's team at regionals were freshman Kristen Celsor for the high jump, sophomore Tiffany Chambers for pole vault and sophomore Gladys Kimtai for the 1,500 meters.

Concentrating on teamwork and unity are also areas the track team has focused on this year, according to Anderson.

"I think as a team, we've improved in terms of team unity and also ... shooting more for those team goals," Anderson said. "A lot of times it's using track to be more focused on 'How can I get to nationals? Am I at my absolute best?' and it's easy to forget the team aspect of it, especially when a lot of our meets aren't necessarily scored meets, ... so I think in terms of a team, I think looking out for each other more and caring more about the team aspect has improved."

Anderson said the way the runners have performed this year has given them a good chance of winning nationals.

"We have a good team; we have a good shot at getting more guys to nationals than we've ever had before," Anderson said. "It's been a good season."

Way Back When: 1995, All-Sports Trophy up for grabs

by J.M. ADKISON
sports editor

It was a year very reminiscent of this year. Every sport in Harding's athletic program was wrapping up a great season. During the days of the AIC, the All-Sports Trophy was awarded to the school with the strongest athletic participation. Due to special issues, this story has been trimmed.

by JILL SHIREY
student writer

A tennis ball is a golf ball is a baseball. So it is when the AIC tallies the points to determine which college will be the recipient of the All-Sports Trophy, given to the school who excels in sports participation.

Harding is a serious contender with its successes in all of its sports. However, as

always, it has come down to the very end of the year, and there is no clear winner. All four of Harding's sports are at or near the top of the conference, but nothing is certain.

This year's tennis teams claim the two best records in Harding history and both are ranked second in the conference. The men are 12th in the nation with a 21-4 season record. They are waiting on an at-large bid for the national tournament in hopes of continuing their

winning season.

The women were all alone at first place in the conference. But a player on the team had dropped below 12 credit hours in school, which forced the team to forfeit those matches in which she had played, and the women lapsed into second place. They are still ranked 14th in the nation, holding a 20-3 season record.

"These are the all-time best two tennis teams we've had," Coach Elliott said.

Harding's baseball team seems to be holding on to a middle position in the conference. They swept a double header against the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) last week. UAM still has three more games to play, and these games are critical, not only to their own standing. The team is hoping for a fourth place finish, although a fifth place. Harding has games against Ouachita Baptist and Lyon College left to play.

The golf team is presently in second place. However, as they are finishing the AIC tournament, they have a chance to tie for the championship.

The track teams' final standings are the most difficult to predict. Both the men and women have been competing and placing well in their meets thus far. But their standings in the previous track meets will have no consequence outcome. All placings will be determined by the conference track meet.

Farewell to a great year in the NCAA

Greg Harnden



Guest Space

Harding ends another chapter in athletics as we depart from the Gulf South Conference to join the newly formed Great American Conference, and what a year it has been. 2010-2011 has probably been our best overall year since joining the NCAA in the mid-'90s, both on and off the field of competition.

Success on the field was certainly at a high level this year. Harding's women will most likely finish in the top three out of 14 institutions in the GSC All-Sports Trophy. Our men are currently in the top two with a chance to win it all. With baseball still to finish, Harding and Valdosta State are in a dead heat to finish first with West Florida still having an outside chance.

The football team had an incredible finish to its year with the Bisons winning four of their last five games. Most notable were the finishes against 12th-ranked Delta State and 15th-ranked North Alabama. In both contests Jordan Watson made incredible catches on passes thrown from Josh Powell as the games ended to bring victory to Harding. This was Harding's first win over Delta State, a yearly nationally ranked power.

Cross-country and track had another outstanding year. Men's cross-country dominated the GSC and South Region as they ran away with both meets. Daniel Kirwa was the individual

winner in both races. Our men finished 19th in the nation. Our women's cross-country team finished second in the GSC meet. Daniel was also an All-American in indoor track and has qualified along with the men's 4x400 relay team and others for the NCAA Division II National Outdoor meet.

Harding volleyball finished second in the GSC while our women's soccer team qualified for the GSC Tournament, which only takes a limited field. Women's basketball again qualified for the GSC Tournament, losing in the semi-finals. Early in the year, women's basketball defeated Delta State, the No. 1 ranked team in the country at the time, in one of the biggest wins in women's basketball history.

Finishing 25-5, our men's basketball team completed the season with the best record in Harding's history. Our men ended ranked 11th in the country.

With spring sports coming to an end, those sports are continuing to add to our great year. Women's tennis made it to the semifinals of the GSC, while the men completed the season with a 16-4 record. Both golf teams added points to the All-Sports Trophy totals as the women finished third and the men fifth.

Still with several weeks left in their season, baseball continues to break Harding records. Their current record of 35-8 has already broken the all-time Harding wins record. Jason Nappi continues to get national attention as he has been in NCAA Division II top 10 hitting categories for most of the season.

Thanks to all for a great 2010-2011 NCAA intercollegiate season.

CHAMPION'S CORNER: Wojciech Kopec

by J.M. ADKISON
sports editor

Leaving home and going to college is rarely a smooth and easy transition for students. Usually students are merely taking a two-hour drive from one town to the next or hopping over a few states in a three-hour flight, but for those coming across nations and seas, the transition to Harding University is much tougher. These students have to deal with language barriers, different cultural expectations and extreme differences in climate.

One such student is Wojciech Kopec, a long-distance runner for the track team from Olsztynek, Poland.

"The biggest adjustment [to living in American culture]: I did not know English at all," Kopec said. "I studied German in Poland. The second was cultural and the weather. I had never been in a country where it was so hot and humid."

Now a senior, Kopec said he has gotten the language down and is double majoring in marketing and international business.

Kopec said he lived in a small village as a child but moved to a big city for his high school education, where he lived in a dormitory and first began getting involved in athletics.

"I went to a big city to high school because I wanted to start sports," Kopec said. "I went to a couple weeks of judo fighting, but I had to stop because I broke two bones in my spine. So then I met another friend from my dorm in the school and he got me into sports, and I started running. The guy who trained me was a national champion for the 1,500 [meters]."

Kopec got into long-distance and was originally supposed to run for the University of Southern California. The USC coach went to watch Kopec run in his national meet two weeks after Kopec got second place for the 10K. At the nationals the USC coach went to, Kopec had a small injury in his leg and ran his 5K slower than the time he ran a 10K. Kopec said the coach told him he would have to run a better 5K in order to go to USC. With time running out, Kopec had to start looking for other options to further his education.

And that is when he discovered Harding University. Kopec said he learned about Harding through a friend at his high school who knew a runner on Harding's track team. Former Harding long-distance runner Arthur Kern, who was also a native of Poland, spoke with track coach Steve Guymon, who let Kopec join the team without seeing him race.

Kopec still runs the 5K and the 10K, but he has now started running the steeplechase as well.

This winter break, Kopec had the opportunity to



photo by JON YODER | The Bison

Polish native Wojciech Kopec runs the 5k, 10k and steeplechase for the Harding track team. He is hoping to get his MBA in either marketing or international business.

join fellow runner Philip Biwott as they trained for four weeks in Kenya.

"When I went to Kenya, I learned to not focus on just finishing the race," Kopec said. "I learned to focus on starting something and finishing it strong. If you want to run, you must train hard but not set too high of goals, because when you can't reach it you will fall away from your goals and won't be happy."

Kopec hopes to continue his education in America by applying to Ivy League schools such as Harvard, Yale or Stanford. He is also applying to the University of California in Los Angeles in order to pursue a Master's in Business Administration, hoping to go into international business. He is not sure if he will stay in the United States or return to Poland.

He also plans on traveling to Peru this fall in order to train more for running long-distance and is hoping to add Spanish to his repertoire of languages.

'Soul Surfer' film struggles to tell inspirational story

by CALEB RUMMEL
photographer

"Soul Surfer" is the latest inspirational, based-on-a-true-story film to hit the theaters and take a chance at pulling your heartstrings.

The movie follows young Bethany Hamilton, who is working her way into the amateur surfing circuit with her best friend, Alana. The two girls, companions since childhood, receive sponsorships from a major surfing company and decide to focus more on their surfing. One routine day of surfing, Bethany loses her left arm to a shark attack.

Although she survives, her arm is gone just below the shoulder. The remainder of the movie chronicles her recovery and her struggle to get back into the competitive surfing world.

Setting aside any issue of accuracy to the events on which the movie is based, the story is an inspiring one. To watch a young girl go through such a tragedy and keep her composure and her faith would lift anyone up.

On that note, few scenes of the movie end on a downward note. Every moment with conflict is quickly resolved, which gives the movie a cheesy feel.

An interesting theme in the movie, which others may find add to the cheese-factor, was the family's display of its Christian faith. The Hamiltons are depicted as churchgoers and quote Scripture to each other several times throughout the movie. Bethany's involvement in her youth group, with Carrie Underwood playing the youth group leader, is something many from a religious background could identify with.

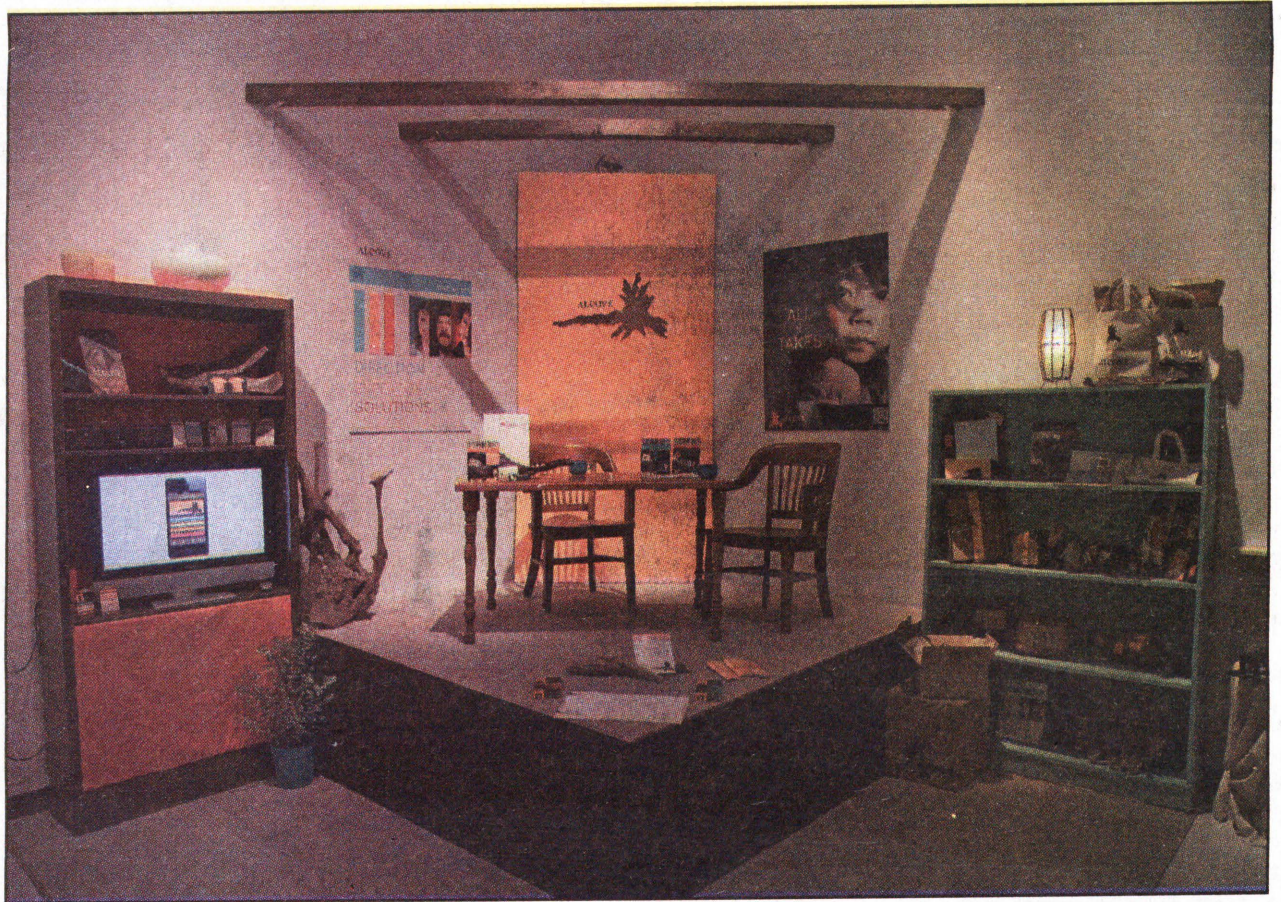
Inspirational story and similar faith aside, the movie

Learning the truth is just as inspiring. ... What I can recommend is that you get online and search for the story of Bethany Hamilton, what happened to her, how she coped and what she is doing now.

was not one of overall quality. The writing was subpar, and the actors were a bunch of now C-list actors, at best. Dennis Quaid's performance was another classic, middle-aged dad role for him, and Helen Hunt opposite him was just as mediocre. The next top-billed performer, Carrie Underwood, is only making her second acting attempt, her first being a cameo in the TV sitcom "How I Met Your Mother." The lead, Anna Sophia Robb, gave a performance that is less than a progression from her previous performances like Violet Beauregarde in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" or Sara, the lead girl in "Race to Witch Mountain."

While I would not stop anyone from going to this movie, I would not recommend it either. The true story of Bethany Hamilton aligns with the movie. Learning about the truth is just as inspiring because it is not written around a conference table. What I can recommend is that you get online and search for the story of Bethany Hamilton, what happened to her, how she coped and what she is doing now.

Designers create spaces in branding project



by JON YODER | The Bison

Four groups of students displayed their work in Stevens Art Center Saturday for the Advanced Graphic Design 2 branding project. Students created a company and designed a space that branded, or represented, their company. This group's project was called the Alcove.

'Heaven is for Real' persuades

by J. M. ADKISON
sports editor

We all want to see heaven; we are just not usually so eager to forsake our bodies and hear our heartbeats go silent. We all have heard of those near-death experiences, where the nearly departed see angels in their hospital room or hear someone calling them home. We have all heard of the books, such as Don Piper's "90 Minutes in Heaven," that recount supposed visitations to heaven and even hell. The latest best-seller in the genre of heaven-and-back adventures is a short, simple book called "Heaven is for Real."

However, the person who claims to have visited heaven was no adult, but a 3-year-old boy by the name of Colton Burpo. The book is written by Colton's father, Todd Burpo, a pastor at a small Wesleyan church in Imperial, Neb., and co-authored by Lynn Vincent, who also co-authored "Same Kind of Different as Me."

The story revolves around

a traumatic experience for Todd Burpo and his wife, Sonja, as their young son, Colton, suffered from a burst appendix and had to undergo an emergency appendectomy. Colton miraculously survived the illness and returned to the life of a regular boy, with the exception of one thing: Colton claimed he had been to heaven during the operation and had seen Jesus.

The book is written from Todd Burpo's point of view, as he asks his son about his trip to heaven and who he saw there. Colton begins by describing Jesus as wearing white clothes with a purple sash, with the most beautiful eyes and "markers," and meeting John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary. Todd Burpo is hesitant at first to believe his son's stories, brushing them off as childish fantasies and the result of excellent Sunday school lessons. However, Burpo continually assures the reader he and his wife had not taught Colton about Jesus' "markers," which are the nail holes from the crucifixion. And then

Colton begins describing others he met in heaven, such as Todd's grandfather who died years before Colton was born and his "other sister" who had died in a miscarriage, whom Colton had never been told about before.

But with such accounts comes skepticism, which is only natural.

However, Todd Burpo is careful not to sensationalize his son's stories; his writing style is simplistic and smooth, by no means a feat of prodigious storytelling. It is written by a common man trying to tell an uncommon story. And whatever Colton says about heaven, Todd Burpo is sure to back it up with Scripture, such as the rainbow in God's throne room or the imagery of Jesus' clothing.

After reading this strange, yet strangely simple, account of a little boy's adventure into heaven, I must say it was nothing like I anticipated. I expected minute details of heaven and its host, but instead I was given a child's account of heaven, told just

If God split the sea, made manna fall from the sky and raised people from the dead, what is to stop him from bringing a little boy to heaven?

as a child would tell it.

And so here is where I say I believe every sentence of this story. The book opens with a quote from Jesus himself in Matt. 18:3, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Children do not need proof or factual basis; it is like faith is an extra appendage they are born with. If God split the sea, made manna fall from the sky and raised people from the dead, what is to stop him from bringing a little boy to heaven?

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Shakespearean scholar examines 'The Tempest'

by AERIAL WHITING
asst. copy editor

A Shakespearean scholar from Nottingham Trent University in England lectured on "The Tempest" by William Shakespeare Tuesday, April 19, in Cone Chapel.

The scholar, Dr. Peter J. Smith, is the author of "Social Shakespeare" and "Hamlet: Theory in Practice," and he has been published in literary journals like Shakespeare Survey and Renaissance Quarterly. He is in Arkansas on behalf of ARcare, a nonprofit health care clinic that treats patients regardless of their ability to pay, which is hosting the inaugural ARcare Arts Festival May 28 in Augusta, Ark.

The entertainment of the arts festival will be based on "The Tempest," and there Smith will deliver the same presentation, "Something Rich and Strange," that he gave at Harding.

"The Tempest" unfolds on an uncolonized island, where the protagonist, a sorcerer and former Duke of Milan, Prospero, conjures a storm that shipwrecks the people who stole his dukedom from him, and their companions. The shipwreck scatters the

passengers on the island, and the remainder of the play tracks their progress as they encounter Miranda (Prospero's daughter), Caliban (a savage whom Prospero has enslaved) and Ariel (a spirit who creates mischief for the shipwreck victims at Prospero's bidding), and as all of the characters reunite. At the end of the play, Prospero reconciles with his usurpers and lays aside his magic.

Written in 1610 or 1611, toward the end of Shakespeare's career, "The Tempest" is often interpreted as the dramatist's farewell, and literary critics frequently identify him with Prospero, a "figure of forgiveness, reconciliation, retirement." However, Smith offered an alternate reading of Prospero's character during his presentation.

"What I want to try to do today is to suggest that actually, the play is more radical than [Shakespeare's farewell], and that perhaps we need to re-imagine Prospero, that perhaps we have been too superficial in identifying Shakespeare with Prospero," Smith said. "And actually, in the Jacobean period, when this play is being staged at court, ... it may have had quite different

kinds of resonance for its first audiences."

According to Smith, "The Tempest" uses elements of masques, which are elaborate and costly dramas in their "zenith" during the first 10 years of the 17th century that celebrated the magnificence of the royal court and glorified the king, and inverts them to comment on the fragility of authority.

In one scene of "The Tempest," Prospero actually has the spirits of the island perform a masque for Miranda and her fiancé, one of the shipwrecked men, and Smith said Shakespeare used the masque scene to expose the "artificiality" and "constructed-ness" of court masques. Smith said the masque scene is performed in a time when Prospero forgets about a conspiracy against the father of his son-in-law-to-be, and it acts as a test of Prospero's memory, which draws attention to his vulnerabilities.

"[Shakespeare] has completely rewritten the genre of the masque to instead of praising royal authority, it's actually about the vulnerability of authority, about Prospero simply being an old man, in spite of all his magic," Smith said.

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YOURS TRULY

Dear Freshmen,

Please refrain from using my books to dry your tears. If you think college tests are hard now, wait until next year.

Yours truly,
D is for Diploma

Want to submit your own "Yours Truly"? Use the format above to submit your own complaint, commentary or joke about something that happens in your life! Send submissions to jadkiso1@harding.edu.

SUDOKU

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CONTEST: Win a free Sudoku book by being the first person to bring the completed puzzle to the Bison office TODAY (Friday)

DEAR DARKROOM

Dear DarkRoom,

How can I find summer love with no chapel, no class, no caf, no functions and no intramural sports? Am I doomed to a summer of loneliness and heart-broken despair? Please help.

Sincerely,

Searching for Summer Love

Dear Searching,

I've said it once and I'll say it twice: There's hope for you and for summer love. A change of environment doesn't have to mean a lower chance of boy pickup opportunities.

Go ahead, call me crazy. But you have yet to experience the phenomenon that's sweeping the nation. It's based on this crazy new technology of social media, and it is changing the way that I view relationships.

Introducing ... churchofchristsingles.com. With more than 20,000 signed up, you'll never want to go back to your old life of boring chapel and class flirting, salad bar pickup lines, attending sports games, or lame functions ever again! It's been said that there's no magic formula for love, but this comes pretty close!

If the perfect online dating solution isn't quite your thing, you could also try dating losers, fake marrying someone on Facebook, or being an old maid.

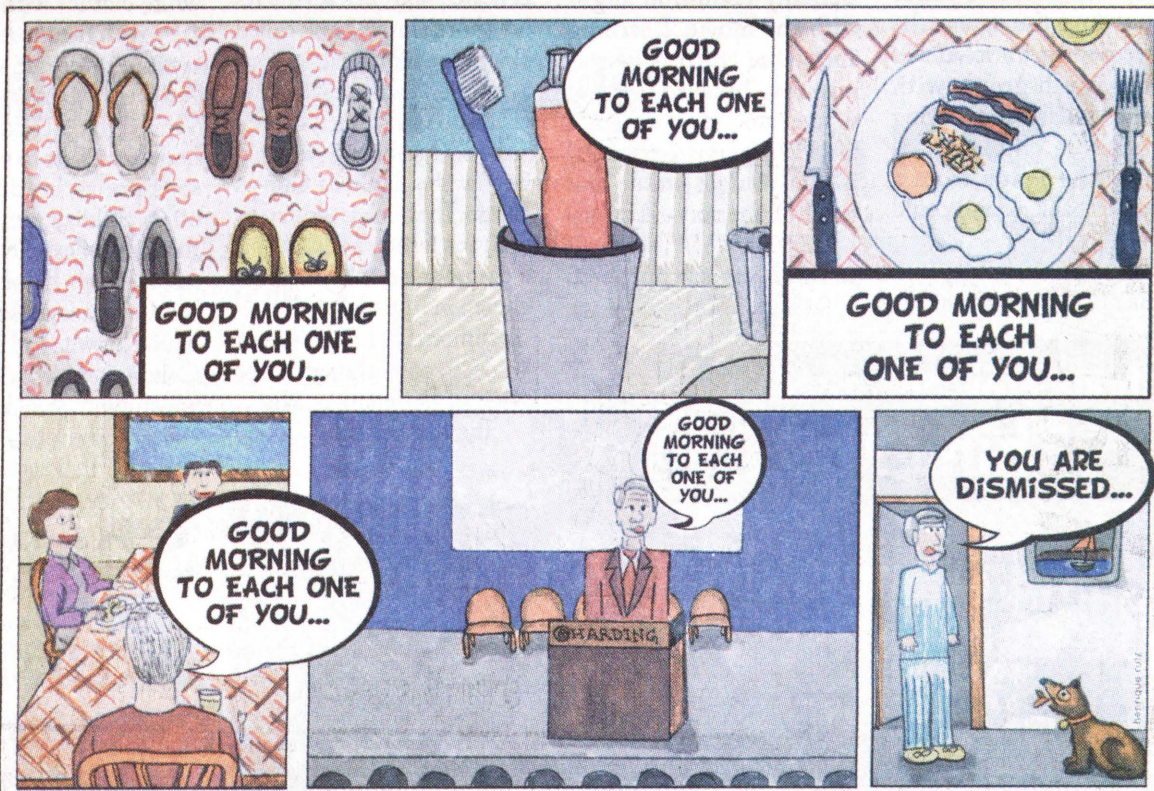
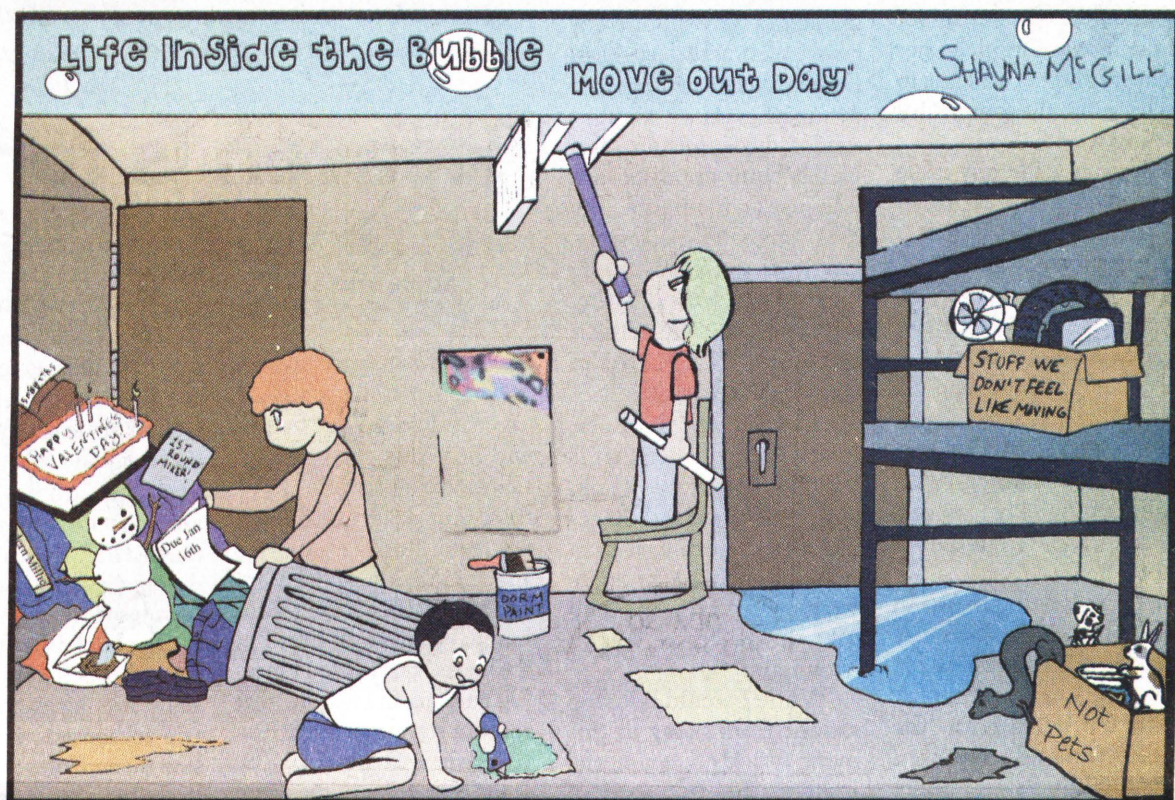
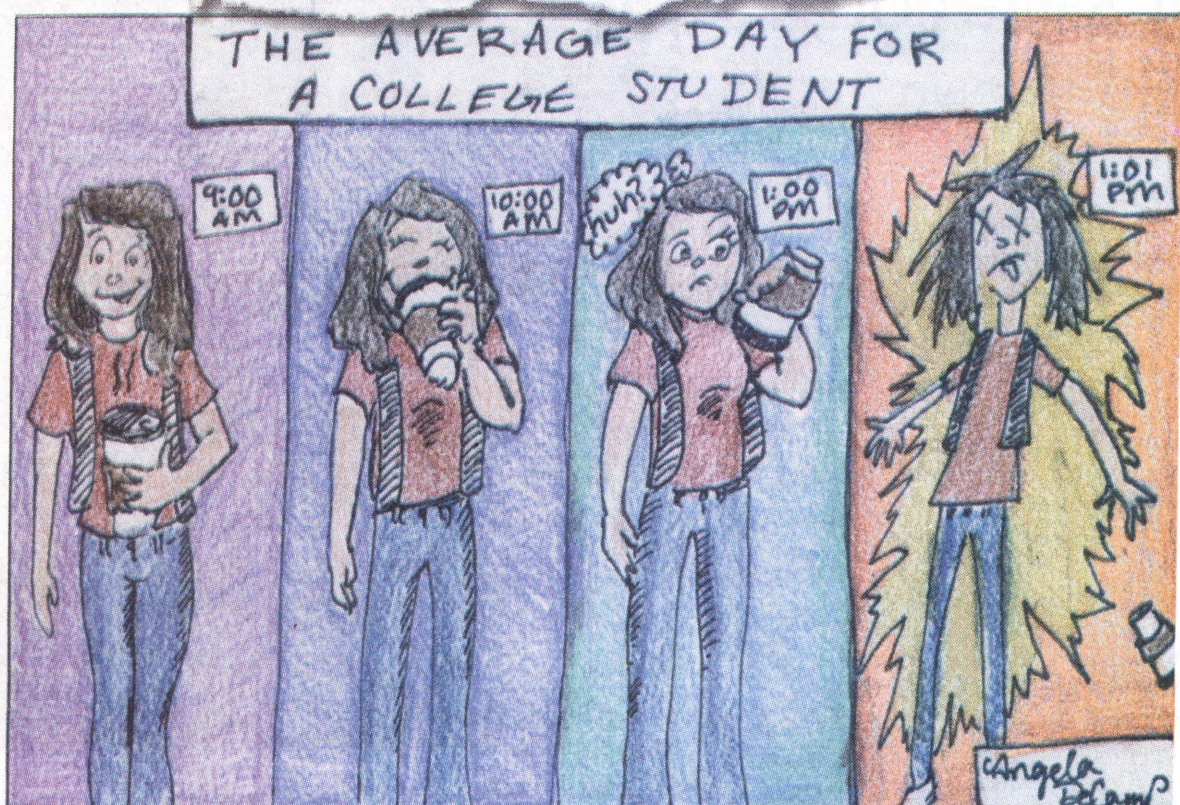
This marks the last (good) Dear DarkRoom. It's been fun accurately answering your questions. Thanks for reading. I'm sure there's a babe out there for you, too. Peace out.

Sincerely,

DarkRoom

Submit your own question to "Dear DarkRoom" at jadkiso1@harding.edu. Warning: Most responses will be humorous and sarcastic. For real advice, seek your local counselor or best friend. All responses are from the Bison photography staff and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors.

BISON DOODLES



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